

## NYS Broadband Flash Bulletin

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[www.nysbroadband.ny.gov](http://www.nysbroadband.ny.gov)

### NYS Broadband Program Office to Update Columbia County on Broadband Efforts

On Tuesday, August 14, the New York State Broadband Program Office will be participating in a broadband discussion hosted by Congressman Chris Gibson at the Columbia Green Community College.

Many areas of Columbia County lack access to high-speed broadband. This event will bring together area leaders for a discussion to try and find solutions for those areas that remain unserved. Discussions will include topics such as broadband providers and quality of services, planned improvements, and public/private partnership opportunities.

David Salway, Broadband Program Director will also provide an update on current state of broadband in New York and share statewide initiatives and activities.

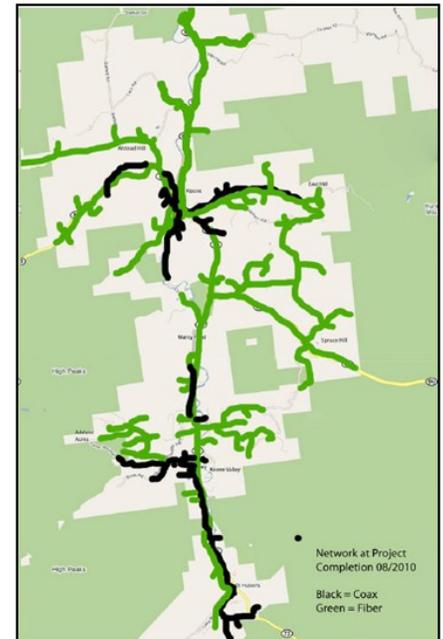
Date: August 14, 2012  
 Time: 9:00 a.m.  
 Location: Columbia Greene Community College.

To register to attend or for more information on the event, please contact Congressman Chris Gibson's office at (518) 610-8133.

### Broadband Project Brings Information and Economic opportunity to the Town of Keene

Although the gaps between broadband access in rural and urban areas have lessened over the years, gaps still remain, especially for many parts of the North Country, home to the Adirondack Park and a large percentage of protected wilderness land. But the tiny town of Keene, NY, where only 1,000 homes and business are found in either densely populated hamlets or scattered along mountain roads, is making a big example of what can be done to shrink availability gaps in New York's most rural towns.

What started as a grass-roots project, and a vision of universal broadband in 2007, has turned into a fully-wired town in the Adirondack Park, something residents value more and more every day. The project was organized as a cooperative effort led by the local Internet service provider, Keene Valley Video and Internet (KVVI) and the High Peaks Education Foundation, a group of local volunteers dedicated to preserving Keene's small K-12 public school. The primary goal of the project was to install connections and computers in every home with a student, teacher or staff member from the school. The secondary goal was to obtain universal broadband service. Today, every home with a student, teacher or school employee is on the network and about 98% of homes in Keene are within reach of the network.



"We wanted to make it possible for anyone that wanted to connect to the Internet using a modern, high-speed connection to be able to do so," said Jim Herman, project co-director, a member of the Board of Trustees of the High Peaks Education Foundation and a resident of Keene.

Pulling together funding from a variety of sources, including donations from local seasonal and full-time residents, and a \$100,000 New York State economic development grant, the town was able to refurbish an aging existing co-axle network and build-out into major new areas of town using fiber-to-the-home technology. At the start of the project, the existing network's plant, owned by KVVI was deteriorating. KVVI did not have reserves to do the necessary refurbishment or expand the network and was contemplating shutting down.

"Building this as a grass roots effort meant we all felt some ownership of the project, helping it along in small ways whenever possible. Rights-of-way came just for the

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asking. Our power company (NYSEG) resolved to help however they could. Vendors and contractors arranged discounts if they could when they heard our story. Hand-me-down computers appeared when needed for low income homes," said Dave Mason, project co-director, member of Board of Trustees of the High Peaks Education Foundation, and a resident of Keene.

Today, the network extends 80 miles, with total capacity of around 150 mbps, and reaches approximately 98% of year-round homes and 85% of seasonal homes and all businesses. The remaining 15% seasonal homes now have 3G cell service. The subscription rate among year-round residents is above 85% – proof that the Internet provides great value to people living in this rural environment. KVVU is now a stable, profitable business that can pay market salaries and fund upgrades and maintenance on the network.

Distance is no longer an obstacle to information and economic opportunity for the town of Keene. Expanding opportunities to a wide variety of online learning experiences and tools for the school, Keene students leave for college just as prepared as students from larger major cities; with 45% of full-time subscribers receiving some portion of their income from the Internet, the way Keene's small business owners operate has been transformed and some small business owners even compete in the national and global market; and during Hurricane Irene, where Keene suffered significant damage, a website hosted on the network was able to update and advise residents and those wanting to help. The Internet also enabled the town to begin distributing grants within five days. In addition, a recent survey conducted by Paul Smiths College even suggests seasonal homeowners visit more often, stay longer, feel better connected to the community and spend more money in Keene.

The town of Keene has been revitalized because of a vision of universal broadband Internet access. "We did this because we couldn't live in a town that didn't have good Internet service," Mr. Herman said. "And we planned to live in this town for a very long time."

For further information on the Keene Internet project visit [http://www.lifeinkeeneny.com/artic/14958/keene\\_ny\\_broadband\\_project\\_report.pdf](http://www.lifeinkeeneny.com/artic/14958/keene_ny_broadband_project_report.pdf) or contact either Jim Herman ([jim12942@gmail.com](mailto:jim12942@gmail.com)) or Dave Mason ([dave12942@gmail.com](mailto:dave12942@gmail.com)), who are members of the Board of Trustees of the High Peaks Education Foundation and project co-directors.

### Mobile Broadband Tablet Market on the Rise

The Mobile Broadband Tablet market is about to see a not-so-trivial upward shift in the percentage of wireless broadband-equipped tablets that are fully broadband, according to a new Strategy Analytics report. The report suggests that the broadband tablet market is heating up, and anticipates a substantial growth in these devices.

The report claims that over the next five years, at least 150 million broadband devices with fully activated wireless data plans will appear worldwide. According to the Strategy Analytics report, by the end of 2017 there will be at least 172 million broadband-activated tablets in play. That is a 78 percent increase from the 22 million or so that are currently active.

The United States is currently the country with the most mobile broadband tablet subscriptions. A recent report by Beijing-based market researcher Analysys International claims that iPads currently make up 72.6 percent of all tablets in China in Q2 2012 and are responsible for more wireless data traffic than any other tablet globally. Analysts predict that the Chinese market, which currently sits in second place, will surpass the United States at some future point.

To read this entire article visit <http://www.mobilitytechzone.com/topics/4g-wirelessevolution/articles/2012/08/07/302301-wireless-broadband-enabled-tablet-sales-set-soar-new.htm>



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